

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3350

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: U.S./JAPAN NEGOTIATIONS: CAPACITY FREEZE

REF: STATE 287460

1. SUMMARY: EXTENDING PRESENT CAPACITY FREEZE WOULD BE UNEARNED U.S. CONCESSION BUT, IN RESPONSE TO JAPANESE CONCERNS, WE SUGGEST NEW ONE UNTIL MARCH 30 ALLOWING AIRCRAFT SUBSTITUTIONS UP TO LAST SUMMER'S LEVELS. I.E. SEASONAL ADJUSTMENTS. FTL SINGAPORE AND PAA BANGKOK COULD BE REQUESTED AS SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS. APPROVAL OF PAA'S OSAKA-HONOLULU HOLIDAY FLIGHTS POSSIBLE BUT BUDGET FARE IS A GONER. END SUMMARY.

2. EXTENDING JULY 12 CAPACITY FREEZE WOULD BE UNEARNED U.S. CONCESSION WHICH WOULD COMPLICATE PENDING FTL SINGAPORE AND PAA BANGKOK FILINGS. SO FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE ONLY OTHER CAPACITY INCREASE PLANNED BY U.S. CARRIERS PRIOR TO MARCH 30 IS FTL'S GRADUAL REINTRODUCTION OF 747F'S, BEGINNING IN EARLY FEBRUARY, WHICH HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY REPLACED BY SMALLER AIRCRAFT DURING THE WINTER SEASON. PAA'S SUMMER SCHEDULE AND NW FREQUENCY INCREASES PLANNED FOR AFTER NARITA OPENING WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL AT LEAST MARCH 30 THOUGH FILINGS WOULD NEED TO BE
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MADE EARLIER.

3. IN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE NEW CAPACITY FREEZE WE WOULD NEED ASSURANCE OF CONTINUED UNINTERRUPTED USE OF 747F'S INTRODUCED LAST SUMMER AND STILL USED SINCE JULY 12 AGREED MINUTE AND MOST OF THE MOT PERMITS ISSUED APPROVING THE LARGER FREIGHTERS CARRY DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE.

WE FRANKLY DO NOT THINK GOJ WILL MAKE AN ISSUE OF THIS
WHETHER CAPACITY FREEZE IS EXTENDED OR NOT.

4. IN SUM, IF WE EXTEND CAPACITY FREEZE, REQUESTING
EXCEPTIONAL APPROVAL FOR FTL SINGAPORE AND PAA BANGKOK,
WE FACE A PROBLEM IN FILING FTL'S FEBRUARY SCHEDULE.
THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE BANGKOK SERVICE WOULD BE APPROVED
THOUGH SINGAPORE IS DOUBTFUL. IF CAPACITY FREEZE IS NOT
EXTENDED, WE ARE FREE TO MAKE AND SUPPORT FILINGS
BUT BELIEVE JCAB WILL MAKE AN ISSUE OF EACH OF THEM.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD CONDITIONALLY AGREE TO EXTENDED
CAPACITY FREEZE, REQUESTING SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS FOR THE FTL
AND PAA FILINGS ALREADY MADE BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY,
ALLOWING SEASONAL ADJUSTMENTS, E.E., RESUBSTITUTION OF LARGER AIRCRAFT,

INCLUDING FREIGHTERS, UP TO THE LEVEL OF LAST SUMMER.

6. RE OTHER FILINGS: WE HAVE INFORMALLY SUPPORTED
PAA'S OSAKA-HONOLULU HOLIDAY FLIGHTS (PAA MUST KNOW
BY MID-DECEMBER) AND THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY OF
APPROVAL IF PAA HAS THE SLOTS. PAA'S BUDGET FARE
WILL NOT BE APPROVED; JAL'S ASADA HAS MADE SEVERAL
PUBLIC COMMENTS AGAINST IT. FTL OSAKA-OKINAWA
SUBSTITUTION WAS APPROVED.
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